

THE ZOOLOGIST

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THE NEW ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS' EGGS.

AFTER a prolonged discussion, extending over two sessions, Parliament has at length decided that it is desirable to make the taking of certain birds' eggs illegal, or, in other words, to give those who are so minded a statutory power of protecting eggs of such species as in their opinion stand in need of greater protection than they receive under the 'Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880.'

For several reasons, we consider this fresh legislation unnecessary. In the first place, the eggs of the most important species, that is, the eggs of all game-birds, and those of Swan, Wild-duck, Teal, and Wigeon, are already protected by the game-laws (1 & 2 Wm. IV. c. 32, sect. 24), and in Ireland this protection is extended to Quail, Landrail, Wild-duck, or *other wildfowl*, Plover, Snipe, and House-dove or Pigeon.

In the next place, the law of trespass can always be enforced by summons against unauthorised egg-stealers who may be found trespassing in search of eggs on private ground; and finally, the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880, makes it illegal to kill any bird (with certain exceptions) during the breeding season, or between the 1st March and the 1st August, providing a heavier penalty for killing those which are specially named in the schedule to the Act, than for those of less importance which are not so mentioned.

We have always maintained that if the sitting bird is properly protected during the period of incubation, there is no necessity to impose a penalty for taking the eggs; for even if the first egg or eggs be taken, and the nest is deserted, there is always the good chance, if not the certainty, of the parent bird laying again elsewhere, and eventually rearing her young in safety.

Twenty years ago, a Committee appointed by the British Association to report upon the subject expressed and emphasized this view, and stated, moreover, that the effect of birdsnesting on species whose numbers are not decreasing (and their name is legion) was inappreciable, and that consequently there was no need of any legislative interference with the practice. This must be apparent to everyone who considers that our forefathers have for generations in their boyhood persistently taken the eggs of such birds as Blackbirds, Thrushes, Hedgesparrows, Robins, Chaffinches, Buntings, Pipits, Wagtails, and other "common" species, and that, notwithstanding this, these birds are still "common"; while it seems to us equally evident that such kinds of Plovers, Snipe, and Wildfowl as have ceased to be common *as breeding species*, have become so, not by reason of the continual destruction of their eggs, but in consequence of the destruction of their natural nesting haunts through advancing civilization, and the cultivation and drainage of waste lands.

The sea-fowl, prior to 1869, when the first modern Act of Parliament was passed for their protection, had become almost exterminated on some parts of the coast, not because their eggs were annually taken from them, but because parties of thoughtless and inhuman "gunners" (wholly unworthy of the name of "sportsmen" or "naturalists") were in the habit of going out in boat-loads under the cliffs, and barbarously shooting the old birds while they had eggs or young in their nests. The prohibition of this practice has saved many species from extinction.

It seems to us that what held good then, in the case of sea-fowl, holds good still, in regard to land birds. Nothing was needed for present requirements but a strict enforcement of the Act of 1880, which, as we have said, protects the sitting bird during the breeding season; and if (by reason of the fact that a first offence is punishable only by a reprimand and payment of costs) this Act is found in practice to be less effectual than it should be, nothing would have been simpler than to amend it



by imposing a fine for a first offence, and increasing it for a subsequent one.

The legislature, however, has thought otherwise; a Bill to protect eggs was introduced (by Sir Herbert Maxwell), and had to be discussed upon its merits. The principle of the Bill was to protect certain named species, on the ground of their asserted scarcity, and the House of Commons deemed this reasonable. The Bill passed the third reading, and, with some slight amendment, went up to the House of Lords. Their lordships pulled it to pieces as ruthlessly as any schoolboy ever pulled a nest when unable otherwise to reach the eggs, and finally so altered it in principle that its author could not recognise it, and was compelled to repudiate it. The reason for this was that the whole principle of the Bill had been changed. Instead of protecting *species*, their lordships were advised (ill-advised, as we think) that it would be better to protect *areas*, and so they willed it.

The result of this alteration naturally would be, (1) to protect a number of species which might not only stand in no need of protection, but whose increase might be, for good reasons, very undesirable; (2) to promote constant squabbling over boundaries; and (3) to give local dissatisfaction at the legality of birds nesting in one parish, and its illegality in another. Under these circumstances Sir Herbert Maxwell could hardly be blamed for declining to accept this material alteration of his Bill, and so it stood over until this session, when a compromise was arrived at.

The nature of this compromise will be seen from a perusal of the Act, which has at length received the Royal assent, and which we here subjoin.

It is now in the power of the County Council, upon the request of an applicant under this Act, to apply for an order of the Home Secretary to take one or other of the two courses proposed; namely, an order prohibiting the taking of eggs of any named species, or the taking of any eggs within a certain specified or defined area.

In the event of such order being obtained, the County Council will have to give public notice of it three weeks before it can be enforced, (1) by advertisement in two local papers, (2) by putting up notices in two conspicuous spots near the place in which the order is to operate, and (3) in such other manner as the Secretary

of State may direct, or as the Council may think expedient, with a view to making the order known to the public.

It does not need much reflection to be convinced that the machinery which will have to be put in force before a "protection order" can be obtained is of a much more intricate and costly nature than the simple "summons" under the old Act. Whether many people will attempt to put this machinery in motion, the cost of which may be chargeable on the rates, remains to be seen. We confess that we are not over sanguine on the subject. At the same time, we shall be very glad if, contrary to our expectations, the new Act proves workable, and acceptable, and produces in time the good results which our legislators claim for it.

The following is the text of the Act (57 & 58 Vict. c. 24), which received the Royal assent on the 20th July last, and was issued too late to appear in our August number:—

AN ACT TO AMEND THE WILD BIRDS PROTECTION ACT, 1880.

BE it hereby enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. *Short title and construction.*—This Act may for all purposes be cited as the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1894, and shall be construed as one with the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"), except as hereinafter provided.

2. *Prohibition of taking or destroying Eggs.*—A Secretary of State may, after the passing of this Act, upon application by the County Council of any administrative county by order prohibit—

- (1). The taking or destroying of wild birds' eggs in any year or years in any place or places within that county; or
- (2). The taking or destroying the eggs of any specified kind of wild birds within that county or part or parts thereof, as recommended by the said County Council and set forth in the said order.
- (3). The application by the County Council shall specify the limits of the place or places, or otherwise, the particular species of wild birds to which it is proposed that any prohibition in the order is to apply, and shall set forth the reasons on account of which the application is made.

3. *Order as to application of principal Act to other Birds.*—A Secretary of State may, on the representation of the council of any administrative county, order that the principal Act shall apply within that county or any part or parts thereof to any species of wild bird not included in the schedule of that Act, as if that species of wild bird were included in the schedule of that Act, and on the making of such order that Act shall apply accordingly.

4. *Publication of Order.*—(1). The council of an administrative county shall in every year give public notice of any order under this Act which is in force in any place within their county during the three weeks preceding the commencement of the period of the year during which the order operates.

(2). Public notice under this section shall be given—

(a). As regards each place in which an order operates, by advertising the order in two local newspapers circulating in or near that place;

(b). By fixing notices of the order in conspicuous spots within and near each place in which the order operates; and

(c). In such other manner as the Secretary of State may direct, or as the council may think expedient, with a view to making the order known to the public.

5. *Penalties.*—Any person who, after the passing of this Act, shall take or destroy, or incite any other person to take or destroy—

(a) the eggs of any wild birds within any area specified in the order; or

(b) the eggs of any species of wild bird named in the order, shall, on conviction before any two justices of the peace in England, Wales, or Ireland, or before the sheriff in Scotland, forfeit and pay for every egg so taken or destroyed a sum not exceeding one pound.

6. *Expenses.*—Any expenses incurred by the council of a county under this Act may be defrayed by that council as expenses for general county purposes within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1888 (51 & 52 Vict. c. 41), or, so far as respects Scotland, the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (52 & 53 Vict. c. 50).

7. (1). *Application to Scotland and Ireland.*—This Act shall

apply to Scotland with the substitution of the Secretary for Scotland for a Secretary of State.

(2). This Act shall apply to Ireland, with the substitution of the Lord Lieutenant for a Secretary of State, and of the grand jury for the council of an administrative county, and any expenses incurred in carrying this Act into effect in Ireland shall be defrayed out of grand jury cess.

THE PTARMIGAN IN LAKELAND.

By REV. H. A. MACPHERSON, M.A.

ONE of the best known histories of the county of Cumberland is that of John Denton, of Cardew, near Carlisle. This gentleman married a daughter of Sir John Dalston, of Dalston Hall, and is said to have been imprisoned in the Tower of London, in consequence of a quarrel between himself and Dr. Robinson, Bishop of Carlisle. During his incarceration John Denton made extracts from the records kept in the Tower. He compiled from these his History of Cumberland, of which several copies, or rather editions (for they all differ), are in existence. The original copy is lost, but must have been written about 1610. In 1887 the Cumberland and Westmorland Archæological Society published an edition of the work, based on a comparison of all the available copies, or editions, existing in MS., and edited by my friend Chancellor Ferguson, of Carlisle. This gentleman has just shown me a newly-discovered MS. copy of Todd's so-called edition. It formerly belonged to Dr. Joseph Smith (who was Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, from 1730 to 1756), and is now the property of the Rev. J. R. Magrath, Provost of Queen's. It is entitled 'An Account of the County of Cumberland, 1737.' Under the title of Wasdale, I find an interesting and entirely new passage, which is of considerable interest to naturalists. It is as follows:—"Further northwards, ascending by ye course of ye River Irt (near unto ye Bankes whereof are vast and strong ffells (great mountains) a large Territory of vast forest ground falls in view from ye summit of ye great mountain called Scaw fell, wch may dispute of height any Hill in Cumberland) at ye foot wherof appears Wasdale chapel, which Dale whether denominated from ye Wast land wherein ye same is situate or from ye washing of

ye said River, is left to ye judicious to conjecture. This territory being part of ye large forest of Coupland (query if it is not now reputed part of Enerdale forest) was formerly well replenished wth Red Deer wch are now reduc'd to a small number, & upon ye mountains & fells there is a store of black game and a *certain species of pouts wth white feathers & other pied*, wch is a rarity particular to these fells, Skiddaw hill, & some other fells in this County, & not to be found elsewhere (as we are informd) in any other County of ye Kingdom." There is a note at the bottom of the same page:—"These pouts are found upon ye Fells between Shap & Kendal in Westmorland. Lancelot Jackson." I do not know what species can be referred to, unless it be the Ptarmigan, *Lagopus mutus*. I do not think that the writer referred to pied or albino Red Grouse, because such specimens occur as irregularly in the Lake District as elsewhere. Certainly this supposition, that the Ptarmigan is the species indicated, fits in well with the various facts explained in my previous notes upon this subject.* With regard to the footnote, I may add that my friend the vicar of Stainmoor, who is a native of Westmorland, assured me two years ago that one of the last of the Lakeland Ptarmigan was killed near Shap by one of his kinsmen; such, at least, is the traditional belief in his family.

If the notice in the Denton MS. relates to the Ptarmigan, it carries our information about local Ptarmigan backwards for sixty years, a fact which in itself will be thought by some to strengthen the argument. Upon the opposite page of the MS. to that above quoted there is the following entry:—"As Bustards, wch are very scarce, & only to be seen on Salisbury plane. They are a pretty large Bird, & run as fast as a hare along ye ground for a considerable time before they can take flight, & are very difficult to be taken; as they will seldom come wth in a gun shot. A Bustard eats well, and has a fine flavour." This remark was apparently called forth by the passage relating to the "species of pouts" on the opposite page, but had no direct bearing upon the context. I ought perhaps to add the reminder that the words "*a certain species of pouts*" are underlined in the MS. Had the writer referred to pied Grouse, he would hardly have called them a "species of pouts," but would have written of them as moorfowl.

* "The Ptarmigan in Lakeland," 'Zoologist,' 1893, pp. 97—99.

A LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE DISTRICT OF BARMOUTH.

By F. C. RAWLINGS.

OF late years many local lists of birds have from time to time appeared, and so great and increasing is the interest taken by a great portion of the public in Ornithology that little excuse is needed for the publication of yet another list. With two or three exceptions, all the species enumerated have been either procured by, or otherwise come under the personal observation of, the compiler, during a residence of nearly twenty years in the locality. The district embraces a circle of about twelve miles from Barmouth as a centre. I have followed the classification adopted by Mr. Howard Saunders in his 'Manual of British Birds,' and am indebted to my friends Dr. Hughes and Mr. Wilson Roberts for their valuable assistance with the Welsh equivalents, which are given in parentheses.

MISSEL THRUSH, *Turdus viscivorus* (Pen-y-llwyn). Resident, common.

SONG THRUSH, *T. musicus* (Y Fronfraith, or Bronfraith). Resident, common.

REDWING, *T. iliacus* (Coch dan aden; asgell coch). Some winters very numerous.

FIELDFARE, *T. pilaris*. (Socan Eira). In severe winters common, but always rarer than the preceding species.

BLACKBIRD, *T. merula* (Aderyn du; Y Fwyalchen). Resident, common.

RING OUZEL, *T. torquatus* (Y Fwyalchen; Mwyalchen y Graig). Plentiful amongst the mountains, preferring the craggy parts, and nesting on heather-covered ledges.

WHEATEAR, *Saxicola cinanthe* (Tinwen-y-Garreg). Very common; nests chiefly in rabbit-burrows and in stone walls.

WHINCHAT, *Pratincola rubetra* (Aderyn yr Eithin). Common.

STONECHAT, *P. rubicola* (Captain Eithin; Crac y Garreg). Resident, common; just recovering from the winter of 1889, which thinned them terribly. During the frost in that year they were picked up dead by dozens.

REDSTART, *Ruticilla phœnicurus* (Llostrhyddun). Very common.

BLACK REDSTART, *R. titys*. A bird of this species, shot near Towyn, was noticed in 'The Field.'

ROBIN, *Erythacus rubecula* (Robin Goch). Resident, common.

WHITETHOAT, *Sylvia cinerea* (Barfawg). Common.

LESSER WHITETHROAT, *S. curruca*. Much rarer.

BLACKCAP, *S. atricapilla* (Penddu). Common; an increasing species.

GARDEN WARBLER, *S. hortensis*. Rarer than preceding.

GOLDCREST, *Regulus cristatus* (Dryw Benfelen). Resident and very common.

CHIFFCHAFF, *Phylloscopus rufus*. Common.

WILLOW WREN, *P. trochilus* (Dryw yr Helyg). Common.

WOOD WREN, *P. sibilatrix* (Gwra). Plentiful; have found five nests in one small wood.

SEDGE WARBLER, *Acrocephalus phragmitis*. Common.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER, *Locustella naevia*. First heard six years ago, and is increasing annually.

HEDGESPARROW, *Accentor modularis* (Siani Lwyd). Common, resident.

DIPPER, *Cinclus aquaticus* (Mwyalchen-y-Dwr). Resident, common; nesting on every mountain stream.

LONG-TAILED TIT, *Acredula caudata* (Sywedw). Common, resident.

GREAT TIT, *Parus major* (Penloyn). Resident, common.

COAL TIT, *P. ater* (Pela Penddu). Common, resident.

MARSH TIT, *P. palustris* (Pela Llwydwyn). Not so common as the preceding species.

BLUE TIT, *P. cæruleus* (Glas Bach). Common, resident.

WREN, *Troglodytes parvulus* (Dryw Bach). Common and ubiquitous, from top of Cader Idris to the edge of the sea.

TREE CREEPER, *Certhia familiaris* (Aderyn Pen Bawd). Resident, common.

PIED WAGTAIL, *Motacilla lugubris* (Brech y Fuches). Common and partially resident.

WHITE WAGTAIL, *M. alba* (Brech y Fuches). Numerous on the spring migration.

GREY WAGTAIL, *M. melanope* (Tinsigl lwyd). Fairly plentiful.

YELLOW WAGTAIL, *M. Raii* (Tinsigl Felen). Observed but rarely.

TREE PIPIT, *Anthus trivialis* (Ehedydd y coed). Common.

MEADOW PIPIT, *A. pratensis* (Ehedydd Bach). Resident, common.

ROCK PIPIT, *A. obscurus* (Gwas y gog). Common on the sea-cliffs.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE, *Lanius collurio* (Cigydd Cefngoch). Common.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa grisola* (Gwybedog). Common.

PIED FLYCATCHER, *M. atricapilla* (Gwybedog Brith). Common, in suitable localities.

SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica* (Gwennol). Common.

MARTIN, *Chelidon urbica* (Gwennol Fronwen). Rarer.

SAND MARTIN, *Cotile riparia* (Gwennol y Glenynydd. Not scarce.

GREENFINCH, *Ligurinus chloris* (Aderyn Melyn). Common.

GOLDFINCH, *Carduelis elegans* (Nicol; Jacknico). Rare in summer; common in winter.

SISKIN, *Chrysomitris spinus* (Dreiniawg). Observed most winters.

CHAFFINCH, *Fringilla cœlebs* (Y Bink; Asgell Fraith). Resident and common.

BRAMBLING, *F. montifringilla*. Two procured from a small flock in April, 1885.

LINNET, *Acanthis cannabina* (Llinos). Common, resident.

REDPOLL, *A. rufescens* (Llinos Bengoch). Occurs in spring generally, but has nested here.

BULLFINCH, *Pyrrhula europæa* (Aderyn-y-Berllan). Fairly numerous.

CORN BUNTING, *Emberiza miliaria* (Bras-yr-yd). Resident, common.

YELLOW BUNTING, *E. citrinella* (Llinos Felen). Common.

CIRL BUNTING, *E. cirrus*. Has occurred once near Borddu.

REED BUNTING, *E. schoeniclus* (Golfan y gors). Resident and common.

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophanes nivalis* (Aderyn yr cira). Generally observed in winter and early spring.

STARLING, *Sturnus vulgaris* (Drudwy). Resident, exceedingly common.

CHOUGH, *Pyrrhocorax graculus* (Bran big coch). A decreasing species, nesting sparingly, or not at all, in its former haunts. An egg, now in possession of the Rev. Mr. Tomlinson, Pontefract, was picked up in the marsh under Harlech in April, 1888.

JAY, *Garrulus glandarius* (Screch-y-coed). Common.

MAGPIE, *Pica rustica* (Pioden). Common.

JACKDAW, *Corvus monedula* (Coegfran). Common.

RAVEN, *C. corax* (Cigfran). Fairly plentiful, and does not seem to be diminishing. Breeds in most suitable crags on the mountains.

CARRION CROW, *C. corone* (Bran). Common.

HOODED CROW, *C. cornix* (Bran Hedlyd). One bird in fine plumage was seen for some weeks in the autumn of 1884.

ROOK, *C. frugilegus* (Ydfran). Not common in the immediate vicinity of Barmouth.

SKY LARK, *Alauda arvensis* (Ehedydd). A common resident.

WOOD LARK, *A. arborea*. Has occurred in winter.

SWIFT, *Cypselus apus* (Wennol-y-dwr). Common.

NIGHTJAR, *Caprimulgus europæus* (Aderyn-y-troell). Common.

GREEN WOODPECKER, *Gecinus viridis* (Cnocell-y-coed). Common.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopus major*. Much rarer than the preceding.

KINGFISHER, *Alcedo ispida* (Glas y dorlan). Not uncommon in winter.

CUCKOO, *Cuculus canorus* (Y-gog). Much rarer this year than in 1893, when it was here in great numbers. Is this owing to the long dry summer?

BARN OWL, *Strix flammea* (Aderyn-y-corph). Common.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio otus* (Dalluan Gorniog). Occurs rarely.

SHORT-EARED OWL, *A. accipitrinus* (Dalluan Glustiog). Met with most winters.

TAWNY OWL, *Syrnium aluco* (Dalluan Frech). Resident, common.

COMMON BUZZARD, *Buteo vulgaris* (Boncath, but locally called "Barcutan," the Kite).^{*} Formerly common, but of late years, owing to the persistent use of poison and traps, becoming rarer, and many miles of mountain may be traversed without having a glimpse of this graceful bird, or hearing its mewing cry.

SPARROWHAWK, *Accipiter nisus* (Cudyll glâs). Not common.

PEREGRINE FALCON, *Falco peregrinus* (Hebog Dramor). A regular visitor, but in limited numbers.

MERLIN, *F. æsalon* (Gwalch Lleiaf). Common in autumn.

KESTREL, *F. tinnunculus* (Cudyll goch). Resident, common.

^{*} See the Welsh names of Birds of Prey, Zool. 1891, p. 178.

CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Morfran). Resident, common.

SHAG, *P. graculus* (Morfran Werdd). Not so common as *Carbo*, but breeds within the Bay.

GANNET, *Sula bassana*. Occasionally seen.

HERON, *Ardea cinerea* (Creyr glâs). Resident, common.

BITTERN, *Botaurus stellaris* (Aderyn y Bwn). Rare; one shot in December, 1876.

GREYLAG GOOSE, *Anser cinereus* (Gwydd Wylt). More often seen than obtained.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *A. albifrons* (Gwydd dalcen wen). Several obtained at Llwyngweil some winters ago.

BEAN GOOSE, *A. segetum*. One specimen obtained from a large flock in 1881.

WHOOPEE, *Cygnus musicus*. Several times observed in winter, but not obtained.

COMMON SHELDRAKE, *Tadorna cornuta* (Hwyaden yr Eithen). Very common, breeding in the neighbourhood.

WILD DUCK, *Anas boschas* (Chwiaden wylt). Resident, common.

SHOVELLER, *Spatula clypeata* (Chwiaden lydanbig). Occurs sparingly.

PINTAIL, *Dafila acuta* (Chwiaden lostfain). Commoner than the preceding.

TEAL, *Querquedula crecca* (Corshwyad). Common.

WIGEON, *Mareca penelope* (Chwiwell). In vast flocks most winters.

POCHARD, *Fuligula ferina* (Hwyaden bengoch). A winter visitor.

SCAUP, *F. marila*. Pretty common in winter.

GOLDENEYE, *Clangula glaucion*. Pretty common in winter.

LONG-TAILED DUCK, *Harelda glacialis* (Hwyaden lostfain). One obtained, a bird of the year.

SCOTER, *Edemia nigra* (Chwiaden-y-mor). Common in winter.

VELVET SCOTER, *Æ. fusca*. A few have been seen in company of the preceding species.

GOOSANDER, *Mergus merganser* (Hwyad daneddog). Has occurred on many occasions in winter.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER, *M. serrator* (Trochydd Brongoch). Common every winter.

WOOD PIGEON, *Columba palumbus* (Yscythan). Resident and common.

STOCK DOVE, *C.enas*. Occurs pretty frequently, but never observed nesting.

ROCK DOVE, *C. livia*. A few pairs nest in the neighbourhood.

TURTLE DOVE, *Turtur communis* (Colomen Mair). Two seen and one obtained, autumn, 1892.

PALLAS'S SAND GROUSE, *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*. Said to have been seen by a gamekeeper and others at Mochras during the visitation of 1888, but no specimens were procured.

RED GROUSE, *Lagopus scoticus* (Grugiar). Occurs on the heather-clad mountains and moors.

PHEASANT, *Phasianus colchicus* (Ceiliog-y-coed). Flourishes only where preserved.

PARTRIDGE, *Perdix cinerea* (Petrisen). Common.

QUAIL, *Coturnix communis* (Sofliar). One specimen noted.

LANDRAIL, *Crex pratensis* (Rhegan yr yd). Common.

SPOTTED CRAKE, *Porzana maruetta*. A few shot every autumn.

WATER RAIL, *Rallus aquaticus* (Rhegan yr dwr). Common.

WATERHEN, *Gallinula chloropus* (Iar-y-dwr). Common.

COOT, *Fulica atra* (Cwtiar). Not generally distributed, but numerous where it occurs.

RINGED PLOVER, *Ægialitis hiaticula*. Resident, very common.

GOLDEN PLOVER, *Charadrius pluvialis* (Chwilgorn y mynydd). Breeds on the moors.

GREY PLOVER, *Squatarola helvetica*. Occurs in limited numbers in winter.

LAPWING, *Vanellus vulgaris* (Cornchwiglan). Resident and very common.

TURNSTONE, *Strepsilas interpres* (Hutan y mor). In spring and autumn. Often seen as late as June.

OYSTERCATCHER, *Hematopus ostralegus* (Pioden y mor). Resident, common.

GREY PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Pibydd Llydan-droed). Noticed commonly on the autumn migration.

WOODCOCK, *Scolopax rusticula* (Cyffyllog). Plentiful.

SNIBE, *Gallinago caelestis* (Giach). Common, resident.

JACK SNIBE, *G. gallinula* (Myniar). Common.

DUNLIN, *Tringa alpina* (Pibydd Rhuddgoch). Common, and probably resident, as a limited number may be seen all through the summer.

LITTLE STINT, *T. minuta* (Pibydd Lleiaf). A few procured.

CURLEW SANDPIPER, *T. subarquata*. Generally with Dunlin, early autumn.

PURPLE SANDPIPER, *T. striata*. Fairly common, and observed as late as the middle of June.

KNOT, *T. canutus* (Myniar Goesgoch). Some winters in vast flocks, others in limited numbers.

SANDERLING, *Calidris arenaria* (Pibydd y Yraeth). Occurs in small flocks in spring and autumn.

COMMON SANDPIPER, *Totanus hypoleucus* (Pibydd). Very common.

COMMON REDSHANK, *T. calidris* (Coesgoch). Resident.

GREENSHANK, *T. canescens* (Coeswerdd). Rare.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica* (Rhostawg). Seen chiefly in autumn.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, *L. belgica* (Rhostawg). Rare; one procured in August, 1893.

CURLEW, *Numenius arquata* (Gilfyn hir). Resident, common.

WHIMBREL, *N. phaeopus* (Coef Gilfin hir). Common during the latter part of May, fewer noticed in autumn.

BLACK TERN, *Hydrochelidon nigra* (Ysgraen ddu). Single birds occasionally seen.

COMMON TERN, *Sterna fluviatilis* (Wennol-y-mor). Occurs sparingly.

ARCTIC TERN, *S. macrura* (Wennol-y-mor). Rare.

LITTLE TERN, *S. minuta* (Wennol-y-mor). Common.

LITTLE GULL, *Larus minutus*. In severe weather of March, 1886.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *L. ridibundus* (Gwylan-bendu). Common in winter; single birds occasionally in summer.

COMMON GULL, *L. canus* (Gwylan). Very common in winter.

HERRING GULL, *L. argentatus* (Gwylan). Resident, common.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, *L. fuscus*. In limited numbers.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, *L. marinus*. Commoner than last. Nests on islands in the lone tarns, also off the coast.

GLAUCOUS GULL, *L. glaucus*. Several immature birds procured during severe frosts.

KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla* (Gwylan benwen). Common.

GREAT SKUA, *Stercorarius catarrhactes* (Barcutan-y-mor). Frequently seen during the herring-fishing season.

POMATORINE SKUA, *S. pomatorhinus*. One in full plumage, May, 1893.

RICHARDSON'S SKUA, *S. crepidatus*. Occasionally.

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda* (Llwrs). Common.

COMMON GUILLEMOT, *Uria traile* (Gwylawg). Common.

LITTLE AUK, *Mergulus alle* (Garfyl Bach). Many washed ashore dead in 1887.

PUFFIN, *Fratercula arctica* (Pal). Common in summer.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER, *Colymbus glacialis* (Trochydd Mawr). Occurs every winter.

RED-THROATED DIVER, *C. septentrionalis* (Trochydd gwddfgoch). Common every winter.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE, *Podiceps cristatus* (Gwyach gorniog). Not common; a few have been obtained at intervals.

SCLAVONIAN GREBE, *P. auritus*. Commoner; in some winters many occur.

LITTLE GREBE, *P. fluviatilis* (Gwyach Lleiaf). Resident and common.

FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis* (Gwylan y graig). Occurs rarely.

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus anglorum* (Gwylan Manawg).

STORM PETREL, *Procellaria pelagica* (Gwylan y weilgi). Several obtained; driven in during severe storms.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

MAMMALIA.

Variation in the Colour of the Fox.—A short time since I had the pleasure of inspecting some twelve or fourteen heads and "brushes" of Foxes, all obtained, I believe, from the hunting-grounds of the "New Forest," "East Dorset," and "South Wilts" Hounds, within the last season or two. Individual variation would not, perhaps, be noticed in a particular head or tail if seen alone, but when placed together the contrast is marked and interesting. The ordinary red-brown head and light grey-brown tail with white "tag" is undoubtedly the most common, but in one or two instances the heads were of a much darker hue, whilst, on the other hand, two at least were almost as grey as a rabbit; again, the "brushes" varied in an equal if not greater degree, from light to dark, and four or five of the number had no white tip. To some extent, no doubt, age, sex, and season will account for this variation; for I observed that the lighter or darker hue was occasioned by the longer hairs being tipped with black or grey, which in a measure partially hid the "red" fur beneath. The lightest coloured head was obtained in March last, and was altogether a pale

specimen, even the back of the ears being brown instead of the usual velvety black. This appeared to be the head of a full-grown Fox, but not very old, judging from its teeth; indeed, in alluding to the light colour, I do not refer to broken-teethed, grey-muzzled creatures resembling an old dog. Whether the dark heads and tails, in the hands of the taxidermist, usually belong to a similarly dark-coloured body, I am unable to say; but it is not necessarily so, as the following will prove. In November last a Fox with a very dark tail was observed to frequent a furze-brake on the borders of a wood; eventually it was hunted and killed, and I saw both head and "brush"; the latter was unusually dark, with no white tip, but the head was of the ordinary rufous colour, and, most remarkable, it had a conspicuous *white* mark—rather elongated, about the size of a sixpence—just in the centre of the forehead. I had previously seen one somewhat similarly marked, but in that case the white spot was not very large, although plainly visible at a little distance. During last winter I was informed that a Fox had been seen in East Dorset with white fore-feet, but I have heard nothing of it since; all the Foxes I have ever seen had, as usual, *black* "pads."—G. B. CORBIN (Ringwood, Hants).

Squirrels and Conifers.—Mr. A. O. Walker, in the last-published part of the Chester Society's 'Proceedings' (No. 4, p. 203), writes:—"I have a good many Conifers of various kinds in my grounds, at Colwyn Bay, and I should guess almost as many Squirrels. At any rate, it is certain that if each Squirrel bit off only one leading shoot in each year, I should not have an unmolested fir-tree in the place; whereas, on the contrary, it would require a long and careful search to find a single tree so disfigured. It is well known that Conifers sometimes lose their leaders from other causes in places where there are no Squirrels."

Cats catching Butterflies and Moths.—Some Cats have quite an entomological taste, especially in the way of catching and devouring crickets and cockroaches; indeed, an old wife's theory I have often heard is that Cats grow thin from eating them. With regard to Lepidoptera, both diurnal and nocturnal, their movements are, as a rule, quicker and more out of reach from pussy's sharp claws, but I am sure that many entomologists will bear me out when I say that Cats will often catch moths with great dexterity. A friend of mine, who has a large garden, used often to remark how his Cat would, of an evening, lie in wait and catch moths, especially some of the larger species; and on one occasion I received a good specimen of the death's-head moth taken by this feline collector. Such an instance is far from unique, for other species of moths have from time to time been obtained under similar circumstances. I have also seen a Cat catch and chew—I can scarcely say eat—both the garden white (*Pieris rapæ*) and orange-tip butterflies. I believe, however, that few, if any, Cats catch moths or butterflies

for food, but pursue them as they would a wind-driven leaf—or indeed anything else that moves—merely for sport.—G. B. CORBIN (Ringwood, Hants). [See a note on this subject in the January number, p. 25.—ED.]

BIRDS.

Albatross at the Færoe Isles.—Before sailing for Færoe in June last, in the yacht 'Daydream,' I had heard from Prof. Newton of the capture of an Albatross there. In Thorshavn, Herr Seysselmand H. C. Müller entrusted me with the complete MS. of his 'Avifauna of Færoe,' wherein the latest items recorded were—"151. *Oriolus galbula*, L. 1893," and "152. *Albatross*: ? Mygganaes." Herr Müller told me that the latter bird was shot there, and that he was informed it had frequented the island for forty years, living in amity with the Gannets. But at last it was shot because it acted as sentinel for the Gannets, and the people could not catch the latter asleep when they went to levy their usual toll of birds. The following day, after seeing Herr Müller (who told me he believed I could purchase the bird from Mr. Petersen, of Naalsøe, for 20 krone), we crossed to that island. Mr. Petersen was not at home, but his wife was. She spoke almost perfect English, and repeated the story of the Albatross, mentioning the same period of time (forty years). I saw the bird—a lovely skin, prepared by Mr. Petersen, who had purchased it in the flesh from the (Mygganaes?) man who shot it. I left the offer for it of 20 krone, but on returning to Thorshavn some weeks later I learnt that it had gone to the Kjobenhavn National Museum—a fitting resting-place for it; and on reaching home I heard that it had been identified there as the Yellow-billed Albatross, *Diomedea melanophrys*. On arriving at Frazerburgh and leaving the yacht, in end of July, I went to Peterhead, to examine once more the Albatross in the Museum there, which is labelled *Diomedea melanophrys*. The two birds, so far as I could judge, were in every respect similar, except that the Mygganaes specimen, fully adult, had no black superciliary streak. The Peterhead specimen, identical in size, had a strongly-marked very black (dusky at the edges?) superciliary streak, and, if the same species, would be possibly younger than the Mygganaes specimen. Referring to my journals of 1882, May 16th, I find that, in company with Mr. George Sim, of Aberdeen, I visited the Peterhead Museum, and made the following note:—" *Diomedea melanophrys*. This specimen was killed June 15th, 1878, in lat. 80° 11' N., long. 4' E., and was presented to the Museum at Peterhead by Capt. David Gray, of the steam whaler 'Eclipse,'" as appears by the label on the case as it now stands in the handsome new Museum buildings. I have now to add that on July 18th, when off the Orkneys, and twenty miles from land, I saw an undoubted Albatross, apparently about the same size as the above-mentioned specimens. It was also seen by our captain as he stood beside me. But it was distinctly an immature bird, judging from

the brown and mottled plumage of the back. I mention it here in connection with the Færoese specimen, but will write more fully of it later. Since penning the above I have ascertained, through Mr. Harold Raeburn, that the Albatross referred to is at present in the possession of a Mr. Andersen, not in the Museum. Mr. A. says it is *D. melanophrys*, and Herr Winge confirms this. Mr. Raeburn adds, "It is said that it has been living for thirty years amongst Gannets on Mygganaes." I think I heard the period put at from thirty-five to forty years both by Herr Müller and Mr. Petersen. It may possibly turn out that it does not belong to the species *D. melanophrys*, but to a closely allied form with black eyebrows which inhabits the N. Pacific, described by Mr. W. Rothschild as *D. immutabilis*, and found by his collectors breeding in numbers in Laysan. But the bird seen by me in Færoe, in Mr. Petersen's possession at Naalsøe, had no black eyebrow, or only the very faintest trace; about the same difference existed as between a Common Guillemot's *spectacle streak* and that of the so-called Bridled Guillemot. It seems to me that the Peterhead bird and the Færoe specimen are indeed as closely allied as the two forms just mentioned; but I cannot say anything more decisive without further knowledge of the genus than I at present possess. It would be desirable to know more about the geographical range of these northern and southern Albatrosses, both during their sedentary nesting season, and during the period of what our German friends would call their "Wanderungen."—J. A. HARVIE BROWN (Dunipace, Larbert, N.B.).

While on a visit to the Færoe Isles last spring, I was shown a skin of an Albatross which had been shot by a fisherman at Mygganaes, the most western island of the group. I took the following dimensions:—Length from tip of beak to tip of tail, 3 ft. 1 in.; beak, 4½ in.; wing (closed), 1 ft. 7½ in.; foot, 5 in. This is evidently not the Wandering Albatross, but more probably the Yellow-billed Albatross, as I think it is called (*Diomedea melanophrys*). I have no book of reference by me as I write. Can this bird have found its way so far north? or has it escaped from some passing ship?—H. L. POPHAM (21, Ryder Street, St. James's, S.W.).

Cuckoos calling on the Wing.—According to my experience, Cuckoos constantly call on the wing during the breeding season, uttering the usual note, as well as the note which sometimes follows it, and which is something like the hubble-bubble sound of a hookah-pipe, as recently suggested by the Rev. Julian Tuck ('The Field,' June 9th, 1894), who attributes this note to the female. I was always under the impression that it was produced by the male, as I have certainly frequently heard the same Cuckoo utter the ordinary note, and the "hubble-bubble" note also; and as the plumages of the two sexes are so very similar, I do not understand how any person can tell whether it is the cock or hen bird that makes this peculiar noise without shooting one in the act of calling and dissecting it. There is

another loud metallic note quite as difficult to describe as the last, which this bird often utters, and which I have always taken to be the note of the female, for the simple reason that it is almost exactly like the note of the female Koel or Indian Black Cuckoo (*Eudynamys honorata*), but I have had no means of proving it. Now, whilst on the subject of Cuckoos, I may as well relate a little episode that occurred here this year. The day after my arrival at Brettenham, I noticed a pair of Cuckoos flying about the garden, calling and settling on an old dead tree in front of my window; this was on April 4th. How long they had been in the neighbourhood I do not know, but they were certainly there on that date; and I mention this as there has been much discussion lately upon the subject of the early dates of arrival of this species. I kept my eye on these birds for some weeks, searching for their eggs, and on June 9th found one in a Pied Wagtail's nest, strange to say, within a foot of my egg-cabinet! The nest, which was about 3 ft. from the ground, was built in the ivy running up the outside wall of my sitting-room, the cabinet being on the inside, and the nest on the outside of the wall. Feeling sure that the eggs must have been intended for my collection, I took the whole clutch to prevent disappointment, consisting of five Wagtail's eggs and one Cuckoo's, the latter being of the Wagtail type, and closely resembling those eggs. Not wishing, however, to destroy the Wagtail's nest, which was the second nest it had built in the same piece of ivy, the first brood having hatched off safely, I put five Spotted Flycatcher's eggs into the nest, and in a short time these were hatched off and reared, and the young birds are now flying about upon my lawn, and able to take care of themselves. The Wagtails were probably astonished that they did not run about the lawn after they left the nest, according to the habits of their species; but they continued to feed them nevertheless until they were full grown. It is very difficult to ascertain how many eggs the Cuckoo lays, as they are so difficult to find; but I feel sure they lay very few,—probably not more than four or five, if as many,—for so few young birds are to be seen after they are hatched. This year I only saw one young bird that undoubtedly belonged to these same Cuckoos, and that was reared by another pair of Wagtails in my kitchen garden. Had there been others about I must have noticed them. Possibly one or two eggs may have got destroyed, but probably not, for I examined innumerable nests that had not been disturbed in the same locality without finding one. As regards the size of the egg, it is no doubt a provision of nature that it should be small, for two reasons—first, in order that it may correspond fairly in size with the eggs of the bird in whose nest it is placed; and secondly, in order that the bird may be able to carry it in its mouth, which it could not do if it was larger, and which I believe it almost invariably does previous to depositing it in the nest of the foster-parents. In some cases, of course, a Cuckoo may lay her egg in a nest in the usual way,

but in most cases that have come under my notice the nest has been either so small, or so situated, that the Cuckoo could only have deposited the egg in it with her beak.—E. A. BUTLER (Brettenham Park, Bildeston, Suffolk).

I have several times heard and seen the Cuckoo calling on the wing, but always at a period of high domestic excitement. I have seen two Cuckoos chasing one another, both calling, and uttering their other peculiar June notes. This is a great district for Cuckoos.—H. CHICHESTER HART (Carrablagh, Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal).

[This observation is confirmed by several other correspondents.—ED.]

Young Cuckoo reared in a Swallow's Nest.—Here at Harswell Rectory, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, a Cuckoo has been hatched and reared in a Swallow's nest, in the verandah attached to my house. The young bird has flown, and as I write is sitting on the wire fence in front of the house, and is still being fed by its foster-parents, who catch flies and supply its wants. Is not this an unusual incident, and is there any precedent for Cuckoos depositing their eggs in Swallows' nests? A few days ago I saw a white Swallow at Harswell.—E. W. ATKINSON.

[The Swallow is included in a list of birds in whose nests the egg of the Cuckoo has been found, given by Professor Newton in the fourth edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds,' vol. ii. p. 394, note, but such an occurrence is exceptional. In 'The Ibis' for October, 1892 (p. 524), the Rev. C. Wolley Dod mentions a case of the kind which occurred at his residence, Edge Hall, near Malpas. The Swallow's nest was built on a ledge in a gardener's "potting shed" formed against a garden wall, with a lean-to roof, and an opening in front fifteen feet long by six feet in height. The nest was so situated that the Cuckoo's egg could only have been introduced by means of the Cuckoo's beak. The egg was duly hatched, and the young bird reared, and as soon as it could fly took its departure.—ED.]

Green Woodpecker pursued by a Sparrowhawk.—Although not of common occurrence, yet in the New Forest I have, on two occasions at least, seen a similar chase to that already reported (p. 58), but in neither case was the hawk successful in securing her quarry. Had it been otherwise, I should imagine, the strong beak and claws of the Woodpecker would have proved formidable weapons against even the Sparrowhawk's dexterity and power. In one of the instances referred to I was both interested and amused. It was, I think, in July, some years ago, I had been insect collecting in the forest, and about mid-day sat down under a large tree in a comparatively open space in the wood to refresh the "inner man," as well as to watch the wild life in such a charming spot. Whilst seated there, I saw a Green Woodpecker come from a distant tree, and like a flash of undulating yellow light, make towards a trunk at no great distance from the one that offered me shelter. But suddenly it began to scream in a most terrified manner,

and I observed a female Sparrowhawk dashing after it in close pursuit; the Woodpecker went "plump" upon the tree to which it was hastening, about six or seven feet from the ground, and the Sparrowhawk did likewise, but with very different result, for it fell trembling to the foot of the tree, slightly stunned, I suppose, by the sudden stoppage. I sprang up and ran towards it, but in the meantime it had recovered itself sufficiently to prevent my capturing it. The Woodpecker had quietly disappeared, I know not where, and the whole transaction, from start to finish, occupied far less time than my description of it.—G. B. CORBIN (Ringwood, Hants).

Period of Incubation of the Sparrowhawk.—As I do not find any information on this point in the various bird-books which I have consulted, an observation on the subject may be acceptable. A gamekeeper assured me last spring that the Sparrowhawk sits five weeks. As I thought he had probably overstated the time, I purposely kept a nest under observation. Five eggs were hatched, and the period of incubation proved to be from thirty-seven to thirty-eight days. — J. H. SALTER (University College, Aberystwith).

Montagu's Harrier in Hants.—Notwithstanding the almost universal war which is waged against all the Hawk tribe, it is gratifying year after year to be able to note their continued existence in our midst. During the past summer I have known of two, if not three, pairs of Montagu's Harrier nesting in the valley of the Avon. One pair brought off a brood of three, which were seen from time to time frequenting the place of their birth—a low, somewhat damp, situation covered with coarse grass and other herbage, amongst which *Osmunda regalis* grew tallest, with here and there a few scattered birches of a stunted growth, the whole situation being overhung by a noble oak-wood crowning the distant hill. That these birds, old and young, should have escaped the vigilant eyes—or rather gun—of the gamekeeper is a mystery I cannot explain, except that the spot chosen by the Harriers was some considerable distance from the dry situation where the coops for rearing his "birds" were placed. Another pair of the same species frequented a situation a few miles further down the valley, but I am sorry to add both were killed, the male on June 4th, and the female ten days later. From the denuded under-parts, the latter showed unmistakable signs of nidification, and the keeper who killed the bird said he believed she had young somewhere on the extensive heaths to the west of the river, as she and her mate always came from that direction. It is somewhat remarkable that three or four days after he had shot the male he observed another "blue hawk" in company with the female, and even after she was slain still a pair of old birds was left, so there must have been two pairs in the vicinity, for the young, if hatched, were certainly not in the plumage described. It is interesting to note the nature of the food of this species

at that particular season. On dissection, I found that the stomach of the male contained the remains—particularly the legs—of a Yellow Bunting, together with the *eggs* of that bird, and a small mass resembling fragments of insects, amongst which the wing-cases of a small beetle were conspicuous; this latter probably from the stomach of the Bunting. The food of the female was even more varied, and her appetite apparently more vigorous; for the stomach contained no less than six legs of small birds (*viz.* two of Bunting and four of Meadow Pipit), the tail and legs of a sand lizard, and a considerable mass of broken eggs, amongst which those of the Sky Lark were easily recognised; in fact, I should suppose the Harrier was killed in the act of robbing the Sky Lark's nest, as an almost entire egg of that bird was in its throat, and the whole passage into the intestines seemed gorged with similar food, whilst the action of the gizzard upon the egg-shells of Sky Lark, Bunting, &c., had reduced them to an almost unrecognizable mass; indeed it seemed impossible that the body of a bird the size of a Harrier could have enclosed such a quantity of food. From the foregoing facts it seems that small birds and their eggs form the staple article of food at this season, although the gamekeeper assured me that the hen bird especially had been "working" his breeding-coops; but I suppose anything bearing the name or semblance of a "hawk" has a like reputation from the gamekeeping fraternity, as it is a well-known fact that even the "Night Hawk," as the Nightjar is often designated, is by ignorant people persecuted as an enemy to their craft. My experience goes to prove that Montagu's Harrier is the commonest species of its class met with here; and although last year I heard of three pairs of Marsh Harriers nesting in the forest, I am doubtful as to identity of the species. In this district I have seen but one specimen of the Marsh Harrier in the flesh, many years ago, and, if my memory serves me, that was in late autumn or early winter, and in that case a doubt existed in my mind as to its being a Hampshire specimen at all. Of course the fact of my not having seen the species myself is no proof against its occurrence. Two years ago a specimen of the Marsh Harrier, said to have been killed in this locality, was identified by a person who possesses Yarrell's 'British Birds.' When I saw the specimen, however, a short time afterwards, a glance proved it to be an immature male of Montagu's Harrier.—G. B. CORBIN (Ringwood).

Buzzard in Derbyshire.—Early in July last a Buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*) was shot by a gamekeeper about two miles south of Bakewell, Derbyshire. One foot had at some previous time been taken off at the ankle-joint, and two claws were missing from the remaining foot. In the crop was found the remains of a Stoat.—W. STORRS FOX (St. Anselms, Bakewell).

[It is to be hoped that this will prove a lesson to the keeper, who should regard the Buzzard as a friend rather than an enemy. It is true that this bird takes toll of the rabbits when it has the chance, but when these are

plentiful, what matter? It also destroys numbers of moles, mice, voles, and rats, and on this account should be especially protected by the farmers. The habit of the Buzzard is to sit upon some horizontal limb of a tree watching for prey. Its quick eye detects the slightest movement of any small animal beneath it, and as soon as the latter is fairly visible, the bird glides off its perch and drops quickly upon it.—ED.]

Habits of the Herring Gull.—It may interest your correspondent, Mr. W. W. Flemyng, to know that I can confirm his observation (p. 308). I also have found candle-ends on the Sovereign Rocks, near Kinsale, which had evidently been swallowed by the Herring Gulls nesting there, and been cast up by them. No doubt Mr. Delap's explanation is the correct one.—H. L. POPHAM (21, Ryder Street, St. James's).

Nesting of the Dotterel in Lakeland.—During a recent visit to the Lake District, I made inquiries about the Dotterel, *Eudromias morinellus*. Shepherds and anglers could mention former haunts, and tell of the value set upon this bird by makers of trout-flies; but the impression seemed to be that few or none remain to breed at the present day. After some search I met with a solitary bird of this species, on July 19th, upon the bare summit of one of the mountains, at a height of about 2740 ft. above sea-level. It rose with a weak note, somewhat like that of the Ringed Plover, *Ægialitis hiaticula*. I found its mate near the same spot, which they were unwilling to leave, one or other of the birds being almost always in sight. The ground was covered with sub-alpine mosses, dark in colour, and woolly in texture, with here and there a patch of reddish shade. The hen bird, which seemed most interested in my movements, watched me from a distance of about twenty paces, or took rapid runs of a few yards, stopping now and then to pick up some insect or other food. When running, the neck was drawn in, and head not higher than its shoulders. It was perfectly silent, and harmonised well in colour with the stones. I noticed an occasional jerking movement of the head, which may have given rise to the old idea of the Dotterel imitating the movements of the fowler. After watching for half an hour, in a bitterly cold wind, I formed some idea of the whereabouts of the nest. As I drew nearer, the bird shuffled along the ground, squeaking like a rabbit; her white-tipped tail was spread to a perfect fan, wings a little raised, and shivering. It was not until I had watched for some time longer that I at length found two eggs in a slight hollow in the moss. There was no nesting material of any kind. Next day, on visiting the place, I found the bird sitting. After watching her from a distance of four paces, I slowly lessened the distance, and finally stooped and touched her before she slipped off the nest. I thought this tameness of the sitting bird the more noteworthy, as the eggs were not more than half incubated. I came across a second

pair on a neighbouring summit, but could see little of them owing to the thick mist which prevailed. Both birds were much excited; they shammed lameness, sometimes springing a few feet into the air, and fluttering down again, as well as going through a performance similar to that above described. They doubtless had young, and must have led them away shortly afterwards, for on two subsequent occasions I could find no trace of either old or young. I looked over much suitable ground in other directions, including spots which were formerly favourite haunts, but could see nothing more of this most interesting species. — J. H. SALTER (University College, Aberystwith).

Dotterel in Derbyshire.—On May 27th last four Dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*) were shot by a gamekeeper on the high bleak pasture-land about three miles due west of Bakewell, Derbyshire. The wings were saved for fly-dressing, and the bodies were eaten! — W. STORRS FOX (St. Anselms, Bakewell).

[The destruction of these birds on the eve of visiting their breeding haunts is most reprehensible, and the offender should have been certainly prosecuted under the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880, for they were killed during the close-time between March 1st and August 1st.—ED.]

Late Nesting of the Goldfinch.—I found a Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*) sitting upon five fresh eggs in a nest in an apple-tree in my garden on August 24th. Surely this is unusually late in the season for these birds to be breeding?—E. A. BUTLER (Brettenham Park, Bildeston, Suffolk).

[No doubt a second brood.—ED.]

Greater Spotted Woodpecker nesting in Scotland.—In the July number of the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History,' Dr. Stuart asks for information about the Greater Spotted Woodpecker nesting in Scotland. Though, of course, a comparatively rare bird in the north of England, this Woodpecker has nested for many years in the border counties, and occasionally over the border. In 1888 a pair of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers nested at Canonbie, N.B., but they and their eggs were taken by a gamekeeper. As birds do not observe political boundaries, it is probable that the species often strays into Southern Scotland to breed. I had two fine nestlings of *Dendrocopus major* brought to me this year on July 10th, taken from a nest distant about fifteen miles south of the Scottish border. One of them soon died, owing, I fancy, to its having been savagely attacked by one of my Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. The other flourishes, and will make a great pet, but the species is not so lively as the Lesser Spotted one. The latter are extremely animated, and chip away at the bark nearly all day long.—H. A. MACPHERSON (Carlisle).

Hooded Crow breeding in Warwickshire.—It may be of interest to state that about the year 1887 I found *Corvus cornix* breeding at Sutton

Coldfield, in Warwickshire. The nest was placed in a tall and solitary tree. I happened to mention the fact to a local collector, and he had the nest and eggs taken for his collection. — F. COBURN (Holloway Head, Birmingham).

Mealy Redpoll in Worcestershire.—On the 25th January last an adult male Mealy Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) was caught at Selly Oak, Worcestershire, and brought to me. It is the first which has passed through my hands, and is new to my local list. — F. COBURN (Holloway Head, Birmingham).

Unusual Number of Eggs for the Marsh Tit and Willow Wren.—During the past nesting season I found a Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*) sitting upon eleven eggs, and a Willow Wren (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) upon twelve. In each case I imagine that from six to eight eggs is the usual number. — J. H. SALTER (University College, Aberystwith).

Lesser Grey Shrike in Hampshire.—I lately had the privilege of visiting the collection of stuffed birds at Heron Court, in company with Mr. Edward Hart, of Christchurch. The collection was formed by the late Earl of Malmesbury, and all the birds were secured on this interesting and beautiful estate. The first "British" specimen of White's Thrush is still in very good condition, and is mounted with one wing raised, exactly as it is represented in the well-known engraving in Yarrell's 'British Birds.' The first recorded "Sabine's Snipe," also, is in equally good condition. In the collection there are a great number of rarities, when one considers that it was formed entirely from one estate, but then the situation of the property is most advantageous, being close to the coast, having a fine stream, the Avon, running through it, and possessing a great stretch of heathy ground, in which are swamps and quiet pools, as well as numerous coverts, and woods of Scotch fir. Birds, in consequence, representing all families, occur, so that in the collection are Ospreys, White-tailed Eagles, Harriers, Bee-eaters, rare *Anatidæ*, Waders, Skuas, &c. We saw a Squacco and a Little Bittern that had been shot together at one bend of the river. Among the cases my attention was arrested by one containing a Shrike, labelled "Grey Shrike, shot Sept. 1842." This proved, on inspection, to be a good specimen of an adult *Lanius minor*. I had believed that one in my own collection, obtained some years ago at Great Yarmouth, was the only adult male of this species that had been met with in the British Islands, but this example at Heron Court had been there long before. We saw a case containing a fine pair of Great Black Woodpeckers, and were told that they were foreigners, but that they replaced a pair, falling to pieces, that had been shot many years ago in trees in the park. — MURRAY A. MATHEW (Buckland Dinham, Frome).

Avocet in Sussex.—On July 1st, while at Pett Level, near Hastings, I had offered to me, a few minutes after it was shot, an adult female Avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*). Mr. Bristow, of St. Leonards, to whom I took it for preservation, gave me the following particulars:—Weight, $9\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.; plumage good, but rather bare at the breast, as the bird had evidently been sitting. In its gizzard were about twenty small worms. Mr. Borrer, in his 'Birds of Sussex,' gives, I think, 1870 as the date of the last one recorded to have been met with in the country, but Mr. Bristow tells me he had two others from the neighbourhood of Camber Sands some six or seven years ago. I found on questioning the man who shot the one I purchased that there were two together, and that he wounded the second one, but it got away. Two days after one was sent to Mr. Bristow from near the same place, and he found on skinning it that it had been wounded before. I have no doubt therefore that it was the same bird. It was also a female, but weighed an ounce heavier than the one first obtained, and stood higher on its legs.—GEORGE W. BRADSHAW (Hastings).

[It is much to be regretted that public opinion or private enterprise is not strong enough to put a stop to the repeated infringement of the Wild Birds Protection Act, which is brought to our notice by correspondents in various parts of the country. It would give very little trouble to apply for a summons, and the offender on conviction would have to pay the costs.—ED.]

Crossbills in Somersetshire.—A flock of from fifteen to twenty Crossbills appeared on the Scotch firs in our avenue on August 25th, and their peculiar twitter first attracted my attention. A farmer complains that great damage has been done in his orchard to some early apples by birds "that cut them open, and then leave them"; so the Crossbills have evidently been about here for some little time. I have heard of others having been noticed at Newgale, in North Pembrokeshire, in the last week of June. — MURRAY A. MATHEW (Buckland Dinham, Frome).

INSECTS.

Tamed Butterflies.—The late Mr. J. Price, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, penned a note on this subject which appears in the last published part of the 'Proceedings' of the Chester Society of Natural Science (No. 4, p. 209). It is as follows:—"The young Thomases, of Llandudno (whom I commended to you long ago as promising observers), have succeeded in taming certain species of Butterfly, not the Common White, which is too shy. They began by offering *cautiously* a sugared finger, on which the insect perched and fed, returning when shaken off, and finally following their friends up and down the garden, and alighting on them fearlessly."

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

The Badminton Library. Big-game Shooting. By various contributors, edited by C. PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY. With numerous Illustrations by J. WOLF, C. WHYMPER and others. 2 vols. 8vo. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1894.

VIEWED as a series of narratives by individual sportsmen in different parts of the world, recounting merely their own experience, these volumes are pleasant reading enough; but there is no disguising the fact that they are not well edited. Apart from the fact that the Editor's own experience as a big-game hunter has been limited, even on the continent, with which he professes to be most familiar (N. America), he seems to have made no attempt to harmonise the work of his contributors, to reconcile conflicting statements, to delete repetitions, or to supply information on points which they have overlooked. This is to be regretted, for the subject is a splendid one, and if properly handled, would have resulted in the production of the best of all the volumes on sport in this now celebrated series. And it is the greater pity because with contributors of such wide experience as the late Sir Samuel Baker, F. C. Selous, F. J. Jackson, W. A. Baillie Grohman, Abel Chapman, Heber Percy, St. George Littledale, and others whose names are mentioned, a supply of the best material was, so to say, guaranteed; all that was needed was to mould it into proper shape. It is an ungracious task, however, to point out shortcomings, and we prefer to confine our remarks to an indication of the varied contents of the two volumes in the order in which they are presented to the reader.

The first volume, which deals with Africa and North and South America, opens appropriately with a chapter on African hunting as it was fifty years ago, written by the late W. C. Oswald, whose name with big-game hunters is a household word, and most fortunate was it for posterity that before his death (which occurred only in May of last year) he was prevailed upon to write these experiences. A sympathetic memoir of him by Sir Samuel Baker (who was so soon to follow him) paves the way

for some reminiscences of that equally renowned hunter. Oswell's account of his second and later visits to Africa, and of his sojourn



BIG GAME ON THE SIRINGETI PLAINS.

with Livingstone in the Zambesi country, is full of interest for naturalists as well as sportsmen. But on getting to the end of

this section, which ends on page 153, we seem to have been reading ancient history, for Oswell's career takes us back fifty years to the days of muzzle-loaders, and we miss here the want of a chapter on *modern* South African hunting such as Mr. Selous could have admirably supplied. This, however, we do not get, for the next page carries us into East Africa under the guidance of Mr. F. J. Jackson. A better guide under the circumstances one could hardly desire, but having read what he has to tell us, we cannot help feeling that the enjoyment of a hunter's life such as he depicts is only to be realized by a very few, namely, by those to whom money is no object, and who can afford to carry with them into African deserts no small share of the comforts of civilization. It seems to us that he recommends the transport of too large a "battery," and too many luxuries. Two good rifles and a shot gun ought to suffice for any man. To carry more, means an additional quantity of different sized cartridges, and additional weight, for which bearers must be provided. Moreover, we have it on the best authority that it is far better to get accustomed to one good rifle, upon which you can depend in case of emergency, than to be constantly changing from a large bore to a small bore, from a light weight to a heavy weight, and *vice versâ*. Again, the sportsman who is roughing it in East Africa may surely dispense with a bedstead, a bath, and a bath-tent, and be content with a mattress upon the ground, and a bucket of water.

But our concern is not so much with the sportsman's outfit and stores, as with the natural history of the country explored, and the haunts and habits of the animals hunted.

From the naturalist's point of view, the chapter on Antelopes deals too briefly with the different species, many of which are still very imperfectly known, and concerning which one would like to have more information from a writer who has seen and stalked them in their natural haunts.

The South African Lion has a chapter to himself, by Mr. Selous, and a very good chapter too; but the South African Antelopes, strange to say, are passed over in silence. Perhaps the Editor considered that having given Mr. Jackson's list of the East African species, it would be superfluous to say more about them. But there are species in East Africa which are unknown in the south and *vice versâ*, and the *present* distribution

of big-game in the south is a subject upon which one naturally expects to find information, for Oswell's experiences, related in the earlier part of the volume, refer altogether to bygone times.



SOUTH AFRICAN ANTELOPES.

We come then to an account of the game of North America, in which the Editor himself is the narrator. It is to be regretted

that this section was not entrusted to someone with a wider knowledge of the hunting-grounds of America, and greater experience as a hunter, for Mr. Wolley shows almost on every page that he is not equal to the task which he has set himself. Not only does he omit mention of some of the finest hunting-grounds of the west, but his experience as a hunter has, on his own showing, been of such a limited character, as to deprive the reader of much confidence in his advice. Nor are his observations on the natural history of the animals hunted so accurate as they might have been, some of his remarks on the habits and food of certain species (the Moose and Cariboo, for example) being directly at variance with those of more experienced hunters. The five pages devoted to the Bison are quite inadequate to do justice to it, and some of the statistics given stand in need of correction. Altogether this is a most disappointing chapter. The big-game of America deserved fully as many pages as the big-game of Africa, but while 320 are allotted to the latter, 80 pages only are devoted to the former.

The account which follows of the big-game of Central and South America (extending to less than three pages!) is simply contemptible. Anyone having knowledge of the literature relating to these countries would have been able to supply a better account than this, without having ever visited the country! It is to be regretted that this chapter was not undertaken by Admiral Kennedy, whose 'Sporting Sketches in South America' were noticed sometime since in this Journal.*

The first volume of the work before us concludes with a chapter on the Musk Ox by Mr. Warburton Pike. So far as his experience has extended, his report is valuable; but it is merely a personal narrative of an expedition from Fort Resolution on the southern shore of the great Slave Lake, and does not supply what was needed in a work of the kind before us. By the way, Mr. Pike tells us that he can find no record of the Musk Ox having been seen in Greenland. If he were a reader of 'The Zoologist,' he would have remembered the information on this point afforded by Colonel Feilden.† The southern range of the Musk Ox is now satisfactorily established as far south on

* 'Zoologist,' 1893, p. 114.

† 'Zoologist,' 1890, p. 178; and 1893, p. 42.

the east coast of Greenland as midway between the parallels of 70° and 71°, and will in all probability be found to extend along the coast line of Egede Land to the 65th parallel of latitude.

Turning to the second volume of 'Big-game,' we find the contents to be of a very varied and interesting nature. Mr. Arnold Pike, writing on "Arctic Hunting," describes the chase of the Walrus and the Polar Bear. Mr. Wolley deals with the Caucasus, and his chapter is supplemented by Mr. St. George Littledale with an account of the so-called Caucasian Aurochs, although that name is wrongly applied to the European Bison.

In the two succeeding chapters Mr. Baillie Grohman gives his experiences in pursuit of the Chamois and the Stag of the Alps, and shows himself perfectly familiar with the habits of these animals, and with the wild mountainous country which they frequent. He gives also some curious statistics from old German game books relating to the size and weight of stags, and the number of tines they carried in former days, as compared with the degenerate animals which are now obtained by sportsmen.

Sir Henry Pottinger, dealing with the European Elk, describes the chase of this huge beast in Scandinavia, and Major A. Heber Percy writes on Bear-hunting in Russian Lapland. This is supplemented by a chapter on Bear-driving in Russia by Lord Kilmorey, and is followed by an account of Bison-shooting in Lithuania. This animal being less known to sportsmen than any other of the European big game, Major Percy's description of its appearance and size, as compared with the Bison of America, is valuable. Referring to a fine bull which he shot as it was driven with a small herd past his hiding-place, he says:—

"He was much larger than any American Bison I have shot or seen; his hair was finer, longer, and not so curly; his colour was a shade lighter, and his horns do not curve at the same angle as those of *Bos americanus*. His height at the shoulder was about six feet, but he gave me the idea of being a leggier beast than the Bison of America. I saw no difference between them which could not be accounted for by climate and habitat."

Messrs. Abel Chapman and W. J. Buck, whose recently published work, 'Wild Spain,' was noticed in this Journal not long since,* supply a short chapter on the large game of Spain and Portugal, amongst which they include the Red, Roe and Fallow Deer, Chamois, Ibex, Bear, Wolf, Fox, Lynx, and Wild Boar. Of these the greatest prize is the Ibex, not only for the sake of the



BISON HEADS FROM LITHUANIA.

splendid horns he carries, but also on account of the extreme difficulty of stalking and shooting him. The late Sir Victor Brooke wrote of the Pyrenean Ibex:—"They live in the worst precipices I ever saw an animal in, and go into far worse ground than the Chamois. They are very nocturnal, and are never seen except in the dark, or early dawn, unless disturbed."

We next come to the section on Indian Shooting, by Lieut.-Col. R. Heber Percy, and this occupies the greater portion of the

* 'Zoologist,' 1893, p. 817.

second volume. The writer shows himself perfectly familiar with his subject, and his contribution is one of the best in the book. Want of space precludes our following him through the long, varied game list of India; suffice it to say that he has much good advice to give, and his tables of measurements will be found most useful to those in search of standards by which to judge their own trophies.

Perhaps the most coveted of all heads is that of the great Wild Sheep of the Pamir which has been named in honour of Marco Polo, and Mr. St. George Littledale's account of his adventures in search of this grand beast, and of the success which he met with in pursuing it, will be read with lively interest by naturalists as well as sportsmen.

The volume concludes with some useful hints on camps and transport, on the choice of rifles and ammunition, and on the best method of preserving trophies.

In regard to illustrations, both volumes are well supplied with process blocks from drawings by Messrs. Wolf, C. Whymper, and H. Willink, as well as from photographs; and although the particular process employed does not always do justice to the delicacy of the original sketches, many of the finer lines being sometimes effaced, on the whole they must be regarded as artistically drawn, and, with few exceptions, much more accurate than many we are accustomed to see. It is satisfactory to note that not one of them has been borrowed from any previous publication—they have all been expressly designed for the present work; and we are indebted to the publishers for permission to reproduce a few, that our readers may judge whether we have unduly praised them.

Game Birds and Shooting Sketches: Illustrating the Habits, mode of Capture, stages of Plumage, and the Hybrids and Varieties which occur amongst them. By JOHN GUILLE MILLAIS. Second Edition. 4to. Pp. i-xiii, 1-185. With numerous Illustrations. London: Sotheran & Co. 1894.

THE author of this capital book has conferred a boon upon naturalists and sportsmen by publishing his second edition upon

smaller paper. The size, weight, and cost of the first edition placed it far beyond the reach of many who would like to possess it, if they could afford it; and the handier form in which it is now issued will admit of its being placed side by side with other works upon kindred subjects on the ornithologist's bookshelves.

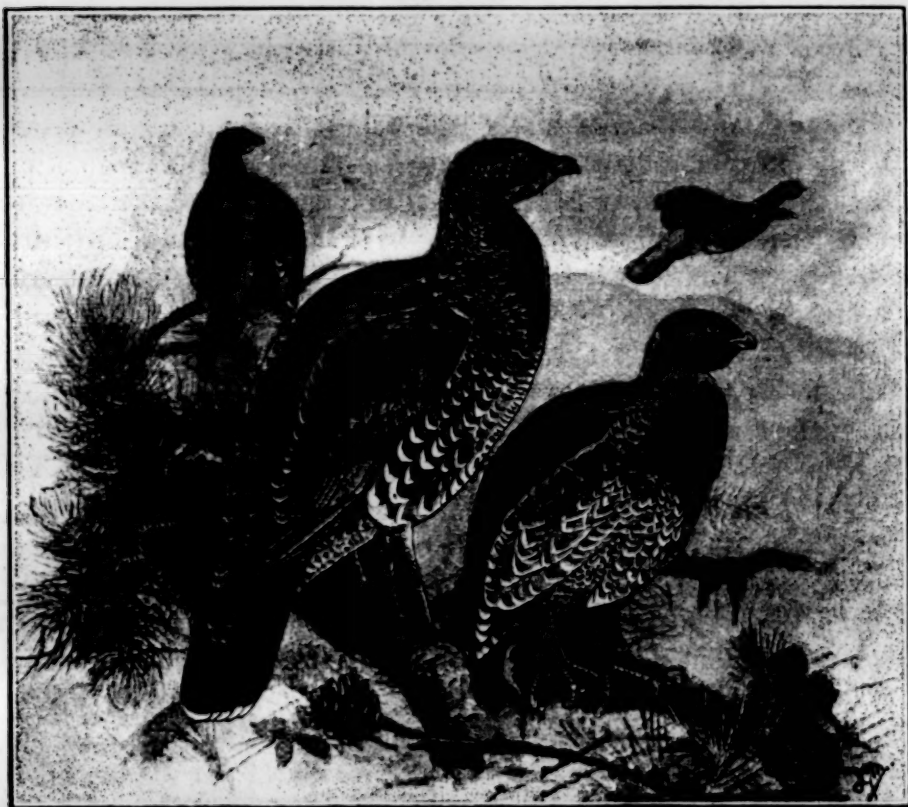
To avoid misconception, it may be stated for the benefit of those who have not yet seen it, that this volume relates exclusively to the Grouse family, and being illustrated by the author, who is fortunately an artist as well as a sportsman, the subject is most graphically treated. There are eighteen full-page plates, and no less than thirty-seven text cuts, representing Capercaillie, Blackgame, Grouse, and Ptarmigan, with their natural surroundings, besides many varieties and hybrids, some of which are extremely curious.

Mr. John Millais is one of those enthusiastic gunners who goes out not merely to shoot, but to observe. He takes his sketch-book as well as his cartridge-bag, and utilises the long watches between the grouse-drives or roe-deer-drives, as the case may be, by committing to paper some of the charming incidents afforded by a day in the forest or on the moor. His pictures of "Grouse resting" and "Grouse disturbed," "Blackgame amongst the firs and larches," and "Blackgame Tournament," are absolutely true to nature, while the accompanying descriptions show how closely he has studied the habits and attitudes of his feathered friends.

Here is an observation on Capercaillie:—

"On one occasion, at Murthly, I remember, when I was out by myself, and the keepers beating some woods near the castle for an old Roebuck which had escaped for several years, that I arrived at a small pass at which I was to stand, whilst the men worked up in my direction. Then I noticed the branches of a large Scotch fir, within a few yards of the place where I was standing, swaying about in an agitated manner. Thinking at first it was only a party of Squirrels, which literally swarmed in the woods, I took no notice of it until at length I saw the head of a bird I knew well, quietly nipping off the young shoots at the ends of the branches. Putting down my gun, and forgetting all about the Roebuck, I got into such a position that my friend was out of sight behind the trunk of the tree, and crawled on

my hands and knees to the foot of the tree. My journey was but half completed when I discovered, by the flapping of a wily old cock as he made off, that the one I had seen was not the only occupant, for, on peering cautiously round the stem, there to my delight were no less than five others all busily engaged on their evening meal. It was ten minutes before the keepers came up, and in that time I think I learnt



HEN CAPERCAILLIE ASSUMING MALE PLUMAGE.

more about the positions and attitudes of Capercaillie than I have ever done since. Though they never once thought of looking down at me, it was very interesting to notice the simultaneous manner in which they all stopped feeding on the first warning crack of the beater's stick."

Some excellent figures are given of hybrids, amongst others of Capercaillie and Blackgame (p. 17), Capercaillie and Pheasant (p. 31), Blackgame and Pheasant (p. 64), and Blackgame and Grouse (p. 68). One of the most interesting is the supposed hybrid

between Ptarmigan and Grouse (p. 183). Of this bird Mr. Millais writes :—

“ One would imagine that from the close association and similarity of structure of the two species, Grouse and Ptarmigan would frequently be found breeding together ; but such is far from being the case. There is no perfectly authenticated instance of such a hybrid, and I have only



SUPPOSED HYBRID BETWEEN PTARMIGAN AND GROUSE.

given the illustration of this supposed cross because it is believed to be such by more than one eminent ornithologist. This bird possesses all the points that such a hybrid should have, the head and neck closely resembling the head of an autumn hen Ptarmigan, and the tail and tail-coverts being also alike, so that the bird is as likely as not to be a genuine hybrid of the two species. It was shot on the 1st Sept. 1878, by Mr. W. Houston, a well-known veteran Highland sportsman. He killed it on the Ptarmigan ground above his house at Kintradwell, Brora, Sutherland, as it was flying with a covey of Grouse. After-

wards he sent it to Professor Newton, of Cambridge, who placed it in the museum of that town."

The claims upon our space preclude our making further extracts, and it must suffice for us, on closing the volume, to recommend it cordially to the perusal of our readers.

We are indebted to the publishers, Messrs. Sotheran & Co., for the loan of the two illustrations which accompany these remarks.

The Grouse. Natural History by the Rev. H. A. MACPHERSON ; Shooting by A. J. STUART WORTLEY ; Cookery by GEORGE SAINTSBURY. 8vo, pp. 293. With Illustrations. London : Longmans, Green & Co. 1894.

Most opportunely, like the work last mentioned, this book makes its appearance at the commencement of the Grouse shooting season. It forms the second volume of the 'Fur and Feather' series published by Messrs. Longmans, the first volume of which (on the Partridge) was noticed in our number for May last.

Mr. Macpherson, dealing with the natural history of the bird, offers some preliminary remarks on the etymology of the name "Grouse." In so doing, he follows Prof. Newton ('Dict. Birds') in tracing the word to "an old French adjective *griesche*, signifying grey, or speckled." It seems rather straining a point to write "or speckled"; for while "speckled" well describes the plumage of the Grouse, and "grey" does not, the strict meaning of *griesche* is surely grey. We have the modern form of it (*grièche*) in the French name for the Grey Shrike, *Pie grièche*, which, by the way, neither of the above-named writers has noticed; but to say that "the plural word *grice* was early modified into the singular *grows*" is to assume that *grice* was a plural substantive instead of an adjective, and is scarcely supported by the quotation from Cotgrave (1611), whose meaning we take to be that "*poule griesche* [was] a moore-henne; the hen of the *grice* [game] or moore game"; in other words, that Cotgrave employed the word *grice* as an adjective, and not as a substantive, as Mr. Macpherson assumes. There is yet another explanation,

or rather suggestion, which we will venture to make, and it is this. Eighty years at least before Cotgrave published his 'Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues,' the word *grows* was in use, and was applied in the first instance, as Prof. Newton has hinted (*op. cit.*), to the "black game." These birds from their colour and their haunts may well have been called *moor-crows* by the uninformed, and it is easy to see how, on dropping the prefix, "crows" became "grows" in the pronunciation of the vulgar. Whether there is any evidence of this use of the word *moor-crow*, we are not at the present moment of writing prepared to say;* but we should not be surprised to find it in the works of Hector Boece or Bishop Leslie, or their translators, or perhaps in Holinshed, who embodied so much of Boece in his 'Chronicle.' But we must not pursue this subject further, interesting enough though it be, or we shall have no room for further criticism of the book before us.

In the natural history of the Grouse, Mr. Macpherson has found a delightful theme on which to exercise his pen, and being himself a moor owner in Skye, with a knowledge of other moors in the north, he has turned his opportunities to good account in an essay of some seventy odd pages. As there is unfortunately no index to this volume, it would have been a good plan if, instead of the running headline "Manners of the Grouse," Mr. Macpherson had substituted at the top of every right-hand page the key-words indicating the contents of each page. Thus we should have (from page 7 onwards) "Distribution," "Introduction into Shetland," "Exportation," "Time of Laying," "Nest and Eggs," "Food," "Tame Grouse," "Perching in Trees," "Pugnacity," "Preponderance of Males," "Packing," "Separation of the Sexes," "Long Flights," "Heather Burning," "Enemies of Grouse," "Vermin," "Plumage," "Hybrids," "Weight," "Poaching," and "Netting." These headings furnish a good indication of the variety of subjects which are dealt with in connection with Grouse; but the remarks on heather-burning are much too brief, and we are surprised to find no allusion made to the very important matter of Grouse-disease. Nor are these subjects dealt with by Mr. Stuart Wortley in the second part of

* In Cornwall the Black-headed Gull is known as *Mire-crow*, and *Carr-crow* is an old Lincolnshire name for the Black Tern.

the volume which is devoted to "Shooting." A summary of the present views of scientists on the nature and cause of Grouse-disease would have formed a very useful chapter by itself, and we cannot but regard its omission as a serious imperfection in the volume.

Mr. Stuart Wortley, who writes from long and varied experience of Grouse-shooting, describes the different phases of "shooting over dogs," and "driving," with a minuteness of detail which shows him to be a "professor," and his remarks upon the different methods of Scotch and English "driving," illustrated by diagrams, leave nothing to be desired. Like Mr. Millais, he is an artist as well as a sportsman, and his full-page illustrations are excellent accompaniments to the text, as are those, too, of his coadjutor, Mr. Thorburn. Indeed, from the naturalist's point of view, we have seen no better pictures of bird-life for a long time than Mr. Thorburn's "Black Game on the Wall" (p. 262) and his "Ptarmigan amongst the Rocks" (p. 248).

If we were disposed to be critical, we might suggest in regard to the picture "The Shadow of Death" (p. 46) the attitudes of the Ptarmigan are a little faulty, inasmuch as the birds should be crouching with lowered heads as the Eagle passes by, and not sitting with heads erect. The appearance presented by driven Grouse as they approach a shooter is admirably rendered by Mr. Wortley in his picture "The Last before Dark" (p. 216).

In the concluding third part of the volume, Mr. Saintsbury discourses on the most approved methods of dealing with Grouse *after* they have reached the larder, and those who know what it is to dwell for a few weeks on a lone moor, many miles from civilization, when Grouse in some form or other is sure to be served up at every meal, will feel grateful to him for some of his good recipes, although we agree with the writer when he says, "A plainly and perfectly roasted Grouse is so good, that he can in no other way be improved, though of course he may be varied."

